

Bryn Mawr, **PA** — Congressman Joe Sestak today joined with Harcum College Acting President and Provost Edward R. D'Alessio and members of the Harcum community for the commencement ceremony at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

Reflecting on his three decades of public service, Congressman Joe Sestak today shared his experiences and insight in his remarks for the graduating class of the Harcum College.

Congressman Sestak spoke about his commitment to public service - 31 years in the Navy and now in his first term in Congress. He continued to discuss his experience serving others and his commitment to try to make things better and to help others in a compassionate and effective way.”

Congressman Sestak encouraged the graduates with the following advice:

“Ideas matter. They can move communities or even nations.

“However, if you do not understand a community or a nation, or if you can’t communicate your ideas, you cannot effect change. You must understand what motivates a person, a community, or a nation.

“What it comes down to is the person – your character and passion and your approach to whatever you choose to do in life.”

Congressman Sestak discussed that the challenge for today’s graduates will be to build upon their personal character and to use their knowledge of the processes they are involved into advance their ideas to change things for the better.

The types of challenges today aren’t those that we saw on September 11th, Congressman Sestak noted. The focus, instead, is to keep challenges from becoming crises.

Congressman Sestak noted that some of the graduates will leave here and begin working on the front line of America’s challenges. He emphasized that the nation needs their vision, character, and understanding of the process to advance the common good. He also noted how their new leadership and ideas can effect change in whatever avenue the graduates choose to follow.”

The Congressman encouraged the graduates to use their vision and character and understanding of the process to advance the common good.

“In summary,” Congressman Sestak said, “Ideas matter. They move nations, communities, even businesses.

“But ideas don’t matter unless you can get them through the process you are involved in.

“To do that, you need the right type of leadership that convinces others to view the same facts through a different prism, compelling them to agree with your idea. To do this takes strength of character to be different and persistent with the conviction of your idea.

“At the end, it is about daring greatly so that you are not, as Theodore Roosevelt said, finding yourself with the timid souls who knew ‘not victory nor defeat.’”

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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